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INFORMED FIELD REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Lebanon

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DATE DISTR. 28 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Opposition of Moslems to Granting of
Lebanese Nationality to Emigrés

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ACQUIRED

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DATE OF INFO. 14 January - 10 February 1949
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. A delegation of Moslem notables, including Muhammad Jamil Bayhum, Dr. Salim Idris, Dr. Muhyi-al-Din Baghut (head of the Najjadah), Muhyi-al-Din Makkawi, and Yusuf Faqih, visited Sheikh Muhammad Tawfiq Khalid, the Mufti of Lebanon, on 14 January 1949 to protest against the Government's decision to grant Lebanese nationality to the 168,000 emigres. This protest was based on the grounds that the decision is a sectarian measure which will place the Moslems in a minority and, consequently, will prevent them from assuming control of the Government.
2. The delegation also demanded that a new census be taken. It pointed out that the Lebanese Constitution provides for a census every decade, and that fifteen years have elapsed since the last one was taken.
3. The delegation formed a committee, headed by the Mufti of Lebanon, which called on Prime Minister Riyad Sulh during the week of 10 February, and poured out its grievances. Although Sulh said that he could not effect withdrawal of the decision without arousing the indignation of Christian circles, he agreed to take measures which would impeded its implementation, source states.
4. In effect, it is reported that Sulh issued a memorandum to be annexed to the decision, stating that, before the emigres could be granted Lebanese nationality, an investigation would have to be made to determine that they were not nationals of another country.

This document is hereby regraded to
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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
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